

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the reorientation of Doordarshan is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No Sir. Doordarshan's services on INSAT series of satellites, including INSAT-2C, could not be reoriented due to election code of conduct declared by Election Commission to maintain the status-quo. Reorientation will be taken up shortly.

[Translation]

#### Optical Fibre Cable Lines in Rajasthan

948. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for laying optical fibre cable lines from Prasad to Saraada, Salambar, Dharivad, Pratapgarh and Tidi to Jaaver Mines in District Udaipur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government propose to link the optical fibre cable line laid between Udaipur and Dungarpur in Rajasthan with the village falling within the radius of 10 Kms;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government also propose to replace the overlines with underground lines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. Wherever technically possible.

(c) The statement is attached.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The replacement of overhead lines with underground cables is for local Network. for long distance network open wire systems are progressively being replaced by reliable media such as Microwave and optical fibre cables.

#### STATEMENT

Details of villages falling within a radius of 10 kms. where optical fibre cable is to be laid between Udaipur and Dungarpur in Rajasthan :-

Name of the Station	Proposed Media & time by which schemes to be implemented
1	2
1. Prasad	Optical Fibre Cable scheme in 1997-98.
2. Chawand	-do-

1	2
3. Sarada	Covered by scheme as at S/No. 2
4. Salambar	Optical Fibre cable scheme in 1997-98.
5. Dharivad	-do-
6. Pratapgarh	Microwave system and the optical fibre cable scheme between Sarada-Chawand-Salambar-Dharivad may be extended upto Pratapgarh also.
7. Tidi	Optical Fibre Cable system in 1997-98.
8. Zawar Mines	-do-

[English]

#### Central Waqf Act, 1995

949. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Minorities Protection and Welfare Organisation of Shia Community to stop implementation of the Central Waqf Act, 1995 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have any plan to amend the Central Waqf Act, 1995, in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir. However, a writ petition has been filed by one Shri Rizwanul Haq in the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court Challenging the Constitutional validity to the Waqf Act, 1995 and its applicability in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The said Writ Petition No. 1689 of 1996 - Rizwanul Haq Vs Union of India and others, came up for hearing on 13.6.96. The Hon'ble Court has issued notice to the Attorney General of India and to the Advocate General of U.P. for presenting their point of view in the matter. The hon'ble Court has also directed that the Sunni and Shia Wakf Boards and Tribunal constituted under the Uttar Pradesh Muslim Wakf Act, 1960 should continue to function. Thus, the matter is sub-judice.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

#### Country Home Page Service in India

950. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are likely to go for 8

country home page service through World web site and offer information on India to potential tourists in the Internet edition of news; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) and (b). The Department of Tourism already has a home page in the worldwide web of Internet giving information about tourist attractions in India. The home page has information about various aspects of India including physical features, people and polity, climate, flora and fauna. Music and dance, cuisine, shopping facilities, travel requirements/visa information, list of tourist offices worldwide, etc.

[Translation]

#### Production of Foodgrains

951. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been constant increase in the production of foodgrains during the past few years in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains produced in the country during 1990-91 and 1995-96, separately;

(c) whether there has been a decline in per-capita availability of foodgrains in the country despite increase in production;

(d) if so, the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country during 1990-91 and 1994-95, separately;

(e) whether foodgrains have been imported due to its lesser availability; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVEANDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) and (b) Production of foodgrains (including pulses) during the period from 1990-91 to 1995-96 crop years is as under :

(in million tonnes)

Crop Year	Production of foodgrains
1990-91	176.39
1991-92	168.38
1992-93	179.48
1993-94	184.26
1994-95	191.10
1995-96	190.36 (likely)

(c) and (d). Per Capita Net availability of foodgrains from the year 1990 to 1995 is as under :-

(Kg./per year)	
Year	Availability of foodgrains
1990	172.5
1991	186.2
1992	171.1
1993	169.4
1994	172.0
1995	184.6

(e) and (f). Due to fall in coarse grain production in 1991-92 and consequent pressure on wheat, about 25.89 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported in 1992-93 and about 4.76 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported in 1993-94. A quantity of 86,000 tonnes and 56,000 tonnes of rice was imported during 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively. There has been no import of foodgrains except pulses after the year 1993-94.

#### Encroachment of P & T land in U.P.

952. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land belonging to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has been encroached upon by the outsiders in Azamgarh, Jaunpur and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of places thereof;

(c) the purpose for which this land was acquired by the Government; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to get the land vacated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Not applicable

(d) Not applicable

[English]

#### Financial Assistance to SCFDC

953. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the budgetary provision for providing financial assistance to Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporations during each of the last three years.